

January 17, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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SUBJECT: "National Intelligence Museum and Center"  
--Proposal by Mr. Martin G. Cramer

1. It is with great difficulty that I comment, at your request, on the subject proposal viz his request for support from the DCI. As you know, I have been a strong and consistent supporter of the concept of an Agency "intelligence museum." My approach to the possibility of such a display area has, however, been that of a "gradualist," i.e. I believe we should begin with an in-house facility which will give us the experience in selecting topics for display and highly professional methods of presentation. Then, and only then, we can judge the value and impact of such a "museum," preferably in a downtown location, as a public medium.

2. With this background, you can understand my personal inclination toward the "Committee for a National Intelligence Museum and Center of Intelligence and National Decisions, Proposed Activities:" outlined in the papers you furnished me for comment.

3. I believe, however, that it would be both improper and undesirable for the DCI to make any commitment of support to such a concept. I believe his role requires that he be limited to support and establishment of a U.S. Government-controlled museum, if he should so choose. Upon his departure from public office, the DCI might wish to lend his support to such an effort as proposed--it is obviously his right to do so. Here too, however, he might wish to consider the stature of his then-former office of DCI in selecting those intelligence-related activities worthy of his support.

4. I would suggest that the DCI respond that he cannot at this time offer his support to the proposal--upholding the precedent--and that upon leaving office he will give the matter further consideration. (At that time he can give careful judgment to the proposals, personalities, et al, he will no doubt receive from a number of organizations, before lending support to any or all of them as he should decide.)

Curator HIC

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